

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, LILLIAN), XY

SUBJECT: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT TO THE SAHEL
REF: ROME 11736

1. WHITE HOUSE SUGGESTS FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE REGARD-
ING MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT.

QUOTE: PRESIDENT CARTER'S MOTHER, MISS LILLIAN CARTER,
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WILL VISIT THE SAHEL REGION OF WEST AFRICA AS AN EMISSARY
OF THE PRESIDENT FROM JULY 24 TO AUGUST 2. SHE WILL
EXPRESS THE PRESIDENT'S DEEP INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM OF
WORLD HUNGER, FOOD PRODUCTION, AND THE ROLE OF AFRICAN
WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GAMBIA, SIR DAWDA JAWARA, EXTENDED

THE INVITATION TO MISS LILLIAN ON BEHALF OF THE EIGHT SAHEL NATIONS WHEN HE RECENTLY VISITED THE UNITED STATES. MISS LILLIAN WILL VISIT THE GAMBIA, SENEGAL, UPPER VOLTA AND MALI.

THE NATIONS OF THE SAHEL, WHICH ARE AMONG THE LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WORLD, WERE RAVAGED BY DROUGHT IN THE LATE SIXTIES AND EARLY SEVENTIES. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SAHEL DROUGHT CONVINCED THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS THAT A LONG-TERM PROGRAM WAS NECESSARY FOR THE SAHEL'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE EIGHT NATIONS OF THE SAHEL JOINED TOGETHER IN A UNIQUE MULTI-LATERAL EFFORT TO FACE THEIR COMMON PROBLEMS. THE UNITED STATES AND ITS WESTERN ALLIES HAVE WORKED TOGETHER WITH THE SAHEL COUNTRIES TO DESIGN A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE REGION'S DEVELOPMENT KNOWN AS THE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO CONTRIBUTE DOLS 200 MILLION TO THIS EFFORT OVER SEVERAL YEARS; DOLS 90 MILLION HAS BEEN REQUESTED FROM CONGRESS FOR FY-79. THE PRINCIPAL OBJECT OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO MAKE THE AREA SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND ECONOMICALLY SELF-SUSTAINING BY THE END OF THE CENTURY. THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED TO NOTE PROGRESS MADE BY THIS EFFORT, BUT IT MUST BE CONTINUED TO MEET THIS ENORMOUS CHALLENGE.

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ON HER WAY TO THE SAHEL, MISS LILLIAN WILL STOP IN ROME AND RECEIVE FROM DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION A CERES MEDAL WHICH HAS BEEN ISSUED IN HER HONOR. THE CERES MEDALS, NAMED FOR THE ROMAN GODDESS OF AGRICULTURE, HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND WORLD DEVELOPMENT. UNQUOTE.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF ACTION ADDRESSEES SOONEST.

3. FOR ROME: WE ARE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF SECOND RELEASE ALONG LINES OF REFTTEL. VANCE

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